

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Attempts to address this problem have included the securement of handles to pilings but due to nearly infinite variety of boat placements due to the numerous boat designs, tidal changes and operator placement, fixed handles may provide assistance to only a few boaters. In addition, most marinas forbid anyone from attaching handles, satellite dishes, or any other item to a piling by use of nails and screws. Removal of items screwed into the wood results in exposure ~~[[f]]~~ of the inner wood to the elements which results in a quicker drying of the wood, and of course a higher probability of an individual obtaining wood splinters.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The straps may include a quick release fastener 66 which consists of a male insert 68 and female counterpart 70 with release tabs 72 that would allow the installer to quickly attach or release the strap 28 around a piling. The adjustability of the strap remains wherein the proximal end 36 can be drawn through the quick release fastener depending on the piling size. Typical pilings for

docks range from 7 inches at a minimum to upwards of 20 inch as a maximum. This strap would preferably be made from nylon or the like resilient material that maintains flexibility despite frequent changing of sizes to accommodate different size pilings. This would allow the boat owner to quickly release or attach the hand grip to any piling whether it would be for a short visit at a restaurant or an extended visit such as a live a board. While the use of a screw or nail fastener would be contemplated by this invention, ~~[[must]]~~ most marinas are cognizance of the damage that a screw or nail will cause to a piling. For this reason, it is a preferred that attachment to the piling is by the use of straps.